

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
Alexandria Division**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	Criminal No. 1:18-cr-00083-TSE
v.)	
)	Judge T. S. Ellis, III
PAUL J. MANAFORT, JR.,)	
)	ORAL ARGUMENT REQUESTED
Defendant.)	May 25, 2018 @ 9:00 a.m.

**MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANT PAUL J. MANAFORT,
JR.'S MOTION TO SUPPRESS EVIDENCE AND ALL FRUITS THEREOF RELATING
TO THE GOVERNMENT'S SEARCH OF HIS RESIDENCE LOCATED IN
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**

Defendant Paul J. Manafort, Jr., by and through counsel, hereby moves the Court pursuant to Rules 12(b)(3)(C) and 41(h) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure to suppress evidence and all fruits thereof obtained by the government pursuant to a search warrant (the "Search Warrant, attached hereto as Exhibit A")¹ issued by a magistrate judge in the Eastern District of Virginia on July 25, 2017, for his residence located in Alexandria, Virginia (the "Manafort Home") because 1) the Search Warrant was an overbroad general warrant in violation of Mr. Manafort's Fourth Amendment rights; (2) the agents who executed the search exceeded the Search Warrant's

¹ The Special Counsel has provided discovery in this matter, including access to search warrants and supporting affidavits, jointly with discovery provided in Criminal No. 17-201-1 (ABJ) pending in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia ("the D.C. Case"). As the Court is aware, discovery in the D.C. Case has been produced under a protective order that protects discovery materials from dissemination. Accordingly, in order to provide this Court with access to the documents referenced in this motion, while not running afoul of the protective order in the D.C. Case, defendant is attaching redacted versions of the search warrant, the search warrant affidavit, and a lease agreement to this motion that are identical to the versions filed in connection with a similar motion to suppress in the D.C. Case. Because the relevant search warrant was issued by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District Virginia, defendant presumes that the Court has access to an unredacted copy of the warrant and affidavit in support. If this is not the case, defendant will seek leave of Court to file a copy of the warrant and affidavit as produced by the Special Counsel into the record in this proceeding under seal.

parameters in violation of the Fourth Amendment; 3) the Special Counsel did not have the authority or jurisdiction to apply for the Search Warrant;² and 4) the government has improperly retained everything it seized from the Manafort Home for nearly nine months and has failed to return all non-responsive material seized to Mr. Manafort.

I. DISCUSSION

On the morning of July 26, 2017, agents entered the Manafort's home located in a condominium building. Once inside, the agents seized numerous documents and seized or imaged every electronic device and storage device in the home. These electronic devices included:

- 4 DVD discs
- 7 external hard drives
- 12 SD cards
- 7 memory sticks
- 1 micro SD card
- 1 iPod
- 3 compact flash cards
- 1 MacBook Air hard drive
- 2 iPads
- 9 thumb drives
- 1 iPhone
- 1 micro vault pro
- 1 DEWF_COMBO1: A 1TB (containing forensic images and device extractions from rooms: C, F, K, and Q)
- 7 iPods
- 1 iMac (including 1 Solid State Drive (SSD) and 1 Hard Disk Drive (HDD))
- 4 iPhones
- 1 SD card

² See Defendant Manafort's Motion to Dismiss (Dkt. No. 30). As the Supreme Court has recognized,

where the officer's powers are limited by statute, his actions beyond those limitations are considered individual and not sovereign actions. The officer is not doing the business which the sovereign has empowered him to do or he is doing it in a way which the sovereign has forbidden. His actions are ultra vires his authority and therefore may be made the object of specific relief.

Larson v. Domestic & Foreign Commerce Corp., 337 U.S. 682, 689 (1949).

- 12 digital flash drives
- 1 Macbook Air
- 2 iPad Minis
- 2 micro SD HC cards
- 2 SD HC cards
- 1 ultra-SD XC I card

(See Search Warrant Return, Receipt for Property, Attachments A and B, attached hereto as Exhibit A.)

a. The Search Warrant was unconstitutionally overbroad

The Search Warrant was fatally overbroad because it allowed the searching agents to indiscriminately seize records, emails, photographs and electronic devices from the Manafort Home. The Fourth Amendment does not permit the warrant that was issued in this case, which was essentially a general warrant for “any and all” financial documents and electronic devices. Rather, the Fourth Amendment’s “particularity requirement prohibits general, exploratory searches.” *United States v. Owens*, 848 F.2d 462, 463 (4th Cir. 1988) (citing *Andresen v. Maryland*, 427 U.S. 463, 480 (1976)); *see also United States v. Young*, 260 F. Supp. 3d 530, 546 (E.D. Va. 2017) (“The Framers included the particularity requirement to end the practice of issuing general warrants[.]”). Thus, the Fourth Amendment requires that warrants “identif[y] the items to be seized by their relation to the designated crimes” such that “the description of the items leaves nothing to the discretion of the officer executing the warrant.” *United States v. Williams*, 592 F.3d 511, 519 (4th Cir. 2010). More specifically, “a warrant generally satisfies the particularity requirement when it allows officers ‘to seize only evidence of a particular crime.’” *Young*, 260 F. Supp. 3d at 546 (quoting *United States v. Fawole*, 785 F.2d 1141, 1144 (4th Cir. 1986)).

The Search Warrant here fell short of the constitutional requirements set out above. For offenses occurring on or after January 1, 2006,³ the Search Warrant directed the seizure of, *inter alia*, “[a]ny and all financial records for Paul Manafort, Jr., Kathleen Manafort, Richard Gates, or companies associated with Paul Manafort, Jr., Kathleen Manafort, or Richard Gates”, (*see* Search Warrant, Attachment B, ¶ 1a.), “[e]vidence indicating Manafort’s state of mind as it relates to the crimes under Investigation” (*id.* ¶ 1i.), and “[c]omputers or storage media used as a means to commit the Subject Offenses,” (*id.* ¶ 2.).

A search warrant for “any and all financial records” of everyone residing at the subject location is exceptionally broad; indeed, nothing in the affidavit justifies so broad a warrant. And a warrant directing agents to seize all evidence of the subject’s “state of mind” does not restrict the agent’s discretion at all. Indeed, the warrant may just as well have told agents to search for and seize any evidence that the subject committed the purported offenses – all of which require knowledge and intent. While seizing agents naturally look for evidence of the subject’s guilt, the role of the warrant is to *limit* their discretion to determine what constitutes such evidence. *See Williams*, 592 F.3d at 519. This warrant did no such thing. Finally, the warrant allowed the agents to search for and seize any “computers or storage media” that may have been used in the “subject offenses,” but it did not limit the agents’ discretion in determining what computers or what storage media fit that description.

Recently, an appellate court found wanting a similar warrant authorizing the seizure of all electronic devices. In *United States v. Griffith*, 867 F.3d 1265 (D.C. Cir. 2017), the appellate court invalidated a search and seizure warrant that “authorized the wholesale seizure of all electronic

³ This crucial temporal limitation was missing from the search warrant for the storage unit and was apparently added to the warrant application for Mr. Manafort’s residence once the government reviewed the documents seized from the storage unit.

devices discovered in the apartment, including items owned by third parties.” *Id.* at 1270-71. In this case, the warrant authorized such a search and seizure.

The affidavit submitted by an FBI Special Agent in support of the search warrant application (the “FBI Affidavit, attached hereto as Exhibit B”) cannot save this defective warrant, either. The Supreme Court has made clear that the Fourth Amendment’s particularity requirements must be satisfied “in the warrant, *not in the supporting documents.*” *Groh v. Ramirez*, 540 U.S. 551, 557 (2004) (emphasis added). A court may only “construe a warrant with reference to a supporting application or affidavit if the warrant uses appropriate words of incorporation, and if the supporting document accompanies the warrant.” *Id.* at 557–58. In the Fourth Circuit, a supporting affidavit must either be incorporated into a search warrant by reference or “be attached to the warrant itself.” *United States v. Hurwitz*, 459 F.3d 463, 471 (4th Cir. 2006). Here, the Search Warrant did not incorporate the FBI Affidavit, nor was the FBI Affidavit attached to the Search Warrant, rendering it an unconstitutional general warrant.

b. The FBI Affidavit failed to establish probable cause that the electronic devices had any connection to the subject offenses and would be found in the Manafort Home.

As in *Griffith*, the search warrant affidavit in this case goes on at length about evidence of the subject’s purported involvement in the offenses. That exposition, however, is directed at establishing why there was reason to believe that an offense was committed and that the defendant was the one who committed it. Importantly, however, an affidavit must also establish a reason to believe that the evidence sought will be found in the place to be searched. Indeed, “[i]n determining whether a search warrant is supported by probable cause, the crucial element is not whether the target of the search is suspected of a crime, but whether it is reasonable to believe that

the items to be seized will be found in the place to be searched.” *United States v. Lalor*, 996 F.2d 1578, 1582 (4th Cir. 1993).

An affidavit setting forth reasons to believe that an individual may have committed an offense, without more, is the proper basis of an arrest warrant – not a search warrant:

The Supreme Court has long distinguished between arrest warrants and search warrants. An arrest warrant rests on probable cause to believe that the suspect committed an offense; it thus primarily serves to protect an individual’s liberty interest against an unreasonable seizure of his person. A search warrant, by contrast, is grounded in probable cause to believe that the legitimate object of a search is located in a particular place. Rather than protect an individual’s person, a search warrant safeguards an individual’s interest in the privacy of his home and possessions against the unjustified intrusion of the police.

Griffith, 867 F.3d at 1271 (internal citations and quotation marks omitted).

In this case, the affidavit does not establish probable cause to believe that the electronic devices purportedly used in the commission of the subject offenses are likely to be found in the Manafort Home:

- One form in which the records might be found is data stored on a computer’s hard drive or other storage media. (FBI Affidavit ¶ 75 (footnote omitted).)
- In a July 2017 interview, [redacted] advised the FBI that there is a Mac desktop computer on the desk in the office at the Subject Premises, which is used by Manafort. (*Id.* ¶ 76.)
- For a variety of reasons, copies of historical records and current records are also frequently stored on external hard drives, thumb drives, and magnetic disks. There is reasonable cause to believe such media may be contained in and among records of Manafort’s business and financial activity at the Subject Premises. FBI interviews of [redacted] further confirm that Manafort has made widespread use of electronic media in the course of his business activity. (*Id.*)
- For example, [redacted] told the FBI that Manafort had a drawer full of phones and electronic equipment at his old residence in Mount Vernon Square. At one point, Manafort gave [redacted] a bag of computers and directed [redacted] to have the drives wiped before giving them to charity. Manafort also gave [redacted] several additional devices, both laptops and cellular phones. (*Id.*)

Far from establishing that electronic devices purportedly used to commit the subject offenses are likely to be found in the Manafort Home, the FBI Affidavit offers the issuing magistrate nothing more than an affirmation that 1) generally speaking, computer hard drives and external storage media contain data; 2) there is an Apple McIntosh computer in the residence that Mr. Manafort uses for *some* purpose; 3) data is commonly stored on electronic media and Mr. Manafort has used electronic media in his business; and 4) at his previous residence, Mr. Manafort had what amounted to a junk drawer where he kept his old phones and other electronic devices before he donated the items to charity. These statements are, for the most part, an assortment of truisms; this recitation does not begin to establish “the requisite ‘nexus . . . between the item to be seized and criminal behavior.’” *United States v. Hoang Anh Thi Duong*, 156 F. Supp. 2d 564, 572 (E.D. Va. 2001) (quoting *Warden v. Hayden*, 387 U.S. 294, 307 (1967)).

The FBI Affidavit in this case is so lacking in probable cause to believe that electronic devices used in the alleged commission of the subject offenses would be found in the Manafort Home that no reasonable agent could have relied on it. Indeed, the *Griffith* court summed up the analysis as follows:

As the Court explained in *Leon*, the good-faith exception does not apply if a warrant is based on an affidavit so lacking in indicia of probable cause as to render official belief in its existence entirely unreasonable. When applying that standard, we consider the objective reasonableness not only of the officers who eventually executed the warrant, *but also of the officers who originally obtained it* or who provided information material to the probable-cause determination. We thus ask whether an objectively reasonable officer could think the affidavit established probable cause, keeping in mind the inadequacy of a bare bones affidavit.

Griffith, 867 F.3d at 1278 (internal citations and quotation marks omitted) (emphasis added). No reasonable agent could have believed that the FBI Affidavit established probable cause, and no executing agent could have believed it either. For this reason, the electronic evidence seized from

the Manafort Home must be suppressed. *See United States v. Doyle*, 650 F.3d 460, 471 (4th Cir. 2011) (good faith exception inapplicable where officer reliance on warrant was unreasonable).

c. The executing agents improperly seized materials beyond the warrant’s scope

Even where the particularity requirement is satisfied – and here it was not – “[i]t is axiomatic that a ‘search conducted pursuant to a warrant is limited in scope by the terms of the warrant’s authorization.’” *United States v. Kimble*, 855 F.3d 604, 610 (4th Cir. 2017) (quoting *United States v. Phillips*, 588 F.3d 218, 223 (4th Cir. 2009)). The Constitution requires that “the search will be carefully tailored to its justifications, and will not take on the character of the wide-ranging exploratory searches the Framers intended to prohibit.” *Maryland v. Garrison*, 480 U.S. 79, 84 (1987). As this Court has observed, a search warrant “must enable the executing officer to ascertain and identify with reasonable certainty those items that the magistrate has authorized him to seize, and thus prevent the seizure of one thing under a warrant describing another.” *Hoang Anh Thi Duong*, 156 F. Supp. 2d at 571 (citations and quotation marks omitted). This requirement prevents law enforcement officials from disregarding the limits set forth by a warrant and conducting a “fishing expedition or a general, exploratory rummaging in a person’s belongings once the police have gained access to the home.” *Id.* at 572 (citation and quotation marks omitted). As the Fourth Circuit has explained, “the seizure of items not described in the warrant violates the Fourth Amendment – and the items should be suppressed – unless an exception to the warrant requirement applies.” *United States v. Legg*, 18 F.3d 240, 242 (4th Cir. 1994).

The agents that executed the Search Warrant in this case ran afoul of the above principles and seized nearly every electronic and media device in the Manafort Home. For example, the search warrant inventory of electronic devices seized or imaged includes things such as an Apple

iPod music device and some Apple iPod Touch music and video devices.⁴ Worse yet, the agents seized electronic devices that were clearly personal, such as cameras and camcorders. (*See, e.g.*, Search Warrant Return, Receipt for Property, Attachment A (describing memory cards from, *inter alia*, Nikon cameras, a Casio camera, a Sony handycam, and a Go Pro Hero camera).) No agent could have reasonably believed that he was seizing electronic devices used in the commission of the subject offenses. Therefore, suppression is appropriate.

d. The government's nearly nine-month retention of every item it seized constitutes an unreasonable search and seizure in violation of Mr. Manafort's Fourth Amendment rights

The FBI searched the Manafort Home more than eight months ago. To date, the Special Counsel has not represented that the materials seized were subject to any process or procedure to insure the government only retained materials within the *scope* of the search warrant. The Special Counsel has only represented that the materials have been subject to a *privilege* review. However, the government is required to review seized materials and if “documents not covered by the warrant are improperly seized, the Special Counsel should promptly return the documents or the trial judge should suppress them.” *Williams*, 592 F.3d at 520; *see also United States v. Tamura*, 694 F.2d 591, 597-98 (9th Cir. 1982) (holding the government’s retention of material outside the scope of the warrant was an “unconstitutional manner of executing the warrant”); *United States v. Comprehensive Drug Testing, Inc.*, 621 F.3d 1162, 1171 (9th Cir. 2010) (finding the government may only retain material seized from electronic systems if it was specified in the search warrant); *Doane v. United States*, 2009 WL 1619642, at *10 (S.D.N.Y. June 5, 2009) (“[P]ermitting the

⁴ In his opposition to Mr. Manafort’s motion to suppress evidence seized from his residence filed in the related matter pending in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, the Special Counsel stated that he would not seek to introduce evidence from the iPods seized from the residence, *see United States v. Manafort*, Dkt. No. 17-cr-201 (D.D.C.) Doc. No. 284 at p. 18, further underscoring the unreasonableness of their seizure in the first place.

Government to retain items outside the scope of the warrant . . . would dramatically dilute the right to privacy in one's personal papers.”).

The first indictment against the defendant was returned almost six months ago, yet the Special Counsel has made no indication that all of the materials seized have been reviewed for responsive documents and data. Moreover, the Special Counsel has not identified materials that were seized even though they were outside the scope of the Search Warrant. As one court has explained, this alone violates the requirements of the Fourth Amendment. *See United States v. Metter*, 860 F. Supp. 2d 205 (E.D.N.Y. 2012). In *Metter*, the court granted the defendant's motion to suppress in light of the government's failure to identify seized documents responsive to a search warrant despite having fifteen months following the search to do so. *Id.* at 215. The court observed that “[t]he government's retention of *all* imaged electronic documents, including personal emails, without *any* review whatsoever to determine not only their relevance to this case, but also to determine whether any recognized legal privileges attached to them, is unreasonable and disturbing.” *Id.* (emphasis in original). *See also United States v. Debbi*, 244 F. Supp. 2d 235, 238 (S.D.N.Y. 2003) (failure to review search material for eight months violated the Fourth Amendment). As individuals and businesses become ever more reliant on computers and other electronic devices, federal courts have become increasingly concerned that the government's ability to seize entire hard drives for off-site examinations not “become a vehicle” for plainly unconstitutional “general” searches. *Comprehensive Drug Testing, Inc.*, 621 F.3d at 1177; *see also United States v. Wey*, 256 F. Supp. 3d 355, 406-07 (S.D.N.Y. 2017) (granting motion to suppress).

Even if the Special Counsel had completed its review of the materials seized within a reasonable time period in this case – which it has not – courts require that, once the government

completes its review, it must return all non-responsive information which “it ha[d] no probable cause to collect” in the first place. *See, e.g., Comprehensive Drug Testing*, 621 F.3d at 1177; *see also Tamura*, 694 F.2d at 596-97 (retention of “documents not described in the warrant ... for at least six months after locating the relevant documents” was “an unreasonable and therefore unconstitutional manner of executing the warrant”). Without this requirement, the government’s practice of over-seizing documents for offsite review would lead to the indefinite retention of all hard copy documents and electronically-stored material, a clear violation of the Fourth Amendment. *See, e.g., Comprehensive Drug Testing*, 621 F.3d at 1176; *Metter*, 860 F. Supp. 2d at 216 (“[T]he Fourth Amendment would lose all force and meaning in the digital era and citizens will have no recourse as to the unlawful seizure of information that falls outside the scope of a search warrant and its subsequent dissemination.”).

In *United States v. Debbi*, the government obtained search warrants permitting seizure of items related to allegations of obstruction of justice and health care fraud. 244 F. Supp.2d at 236. Pursuant to those warrants, federal agents seized electronic and paper files, financial documents, and patient reports. Thereafter, the government failed to take any steps to separate seized documents that fell within the scope of the warrants from those clearly outside the scope. *Id.* at 237. The *Debbi* court found that the government “felt free to invade [the defendant’s] home, seize his records without meaningful limitation and restraint, pick over them for months thereafter without determining which were actually evidence of the alleged crimes, and even now refrain from returning what it was never entitled to seize.” *Id.* at 238. Thus, the court suppressed all seized materials that the government had not yet determined to be within the scope of the warrants. *Id.*

The result should be no different here, where the government executed the Search Warrant nearly nine months ago and, to date, the defense has no reason to believe that the material seized from the Manafort Home has even been fully reviewed and where no material deemed unresponsive to the Search Warrant has been returned to Mr. Manafort.

Wherefore, Mr. Manafort respectfully moves the Court to suppress all evidence and fruits thereof relating to the government's search of the Manafort Home on the grounds stated herein.

Dated: April 30, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

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